UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Mohr

DATE: December 6, 1963

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

Lee Oswald

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach called me at 10:45 p.m., 12-5-63. He told me that Sandy Smith of the "Chicago Sun-Times" had called Guthman several times relative to the attempted assassination of General Edwin A. Walker by Lee Harvey Oswald. I told Katzenbach that we too had received a number of calls, however, had refused to make any comment whatever in this matter although we knew the story was getting out. Katzenbach told me that Pierre Salinger of the White House had called him and wanted guidance on what to say in the matter. Katzenbach told Salinger inasmuch as the story was apparently already out that Salinger should go ahead and merely confirm the fact that apparently there was evidence that Oswald had made an assassination attempt upon General Walker's life.

Katzenbach told me that the Associated Press (AP) had picked up a rumor that the FBI report on the assassination of the President and the murder of Oswald was now over in the Department. He wanted to know if we had received any inquiries in this regard. I told him we were deluged with inquiries during the past several days as to when the FBI would complete the report, however, we had made no comment and intended to stick by this. He stated that Senator Russell, at the Presidential Commission meeting yesterday, 12-5-63, had been somewhat sore that information contained in the report was leaked out. Katzenbach stated he told Russell that Director Hoover had assured him that the FBI was not giving any information to the press and that he further stated he would check with the FBI to make certain that this was not being done. I asked Katzenbach if he had any information that facts given to the press were coming from the FBI. He stated he had none and that was not the purpose of his call. He indicated he merely wanted to advise me of Senator Russell's feelings. I told him he should keep in mind that almost every police officer in the Dallas Police Department has been furnishing information to the press. I mentioned that Henry Wade, the prosecutor, the Chief of Police and Captain Will Fritz had had a field day in giving out all available facts. I mentioned there were still a considerable number of reporters in Dallas and that the evidentiary reports which we had furnished the Dallas Police Department were still being quoted on a daily basis. Katzenbach stated he knew all of this but that he had been unable to convince Russell that such was the case. I further told Katzenbach

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1 - Mr. Belmont
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Section 6

DeLoach to Mohr 12-6-63
Re: Assassination of the President

that before looking at the FBI as to possible "leaks," he should carefully examine his own house. I told him I was quite thoroughly familiar with the way Guthman and Rosenthal dealt with the press and that as he well knew the wire service people stayed constantly in Guthman's private office. I told him it was quite obvious to me how the AP had learned that the report had been sent over to the Department.

Katzenbach reiterated that he had no complaints against the FBI. He stated again that the purpose of his call was to tell me about Senator Russell's feelings.

He added that he had another reason for calling and that was to determine if we could give him any ideas as to how Warren Olney could be dropped as Chief Counsel of the Presidential Commission. I told Katzenbach of our feelings concerning Olney. He stated that he was presently working through Congressman Hale Boggs and he thought he was going to be successful in getting Olney's name removed from consideration. He told me that Boggs was very sympathetic.

Katzenbach mentioned that Waggoner Carr, the Texas State Attorney General, would like very much to see the Director on Friday, 12-6-63. I asked him what for. He stated that Carr had no particular motive in mind other than to indicate to the press later on that he had discussed matters with the Director. I told him I could see no percentage in the Director's seeing Carr, that we were the investigative agency and that Carr's dealings should be with the Department and the Presidential Commission. Katzenbach indicated that the White House might think otherwise. He stated that the President was most anxious for Carr to be given attention in Washington inasmuch as Carr was running for office next year. I told Katzenbach I knew this, however, I still felt that the Director should not be injected into this matter. Katzenbach stated he would attempt to disuade Carr from seeing the Director, however, Carr was quite persistent.

ACTION:

In view of the close friendship which Carr obviously has with the President, the Director may desire to just shake hands with Carr without sitting down and discussing facts concerning our report.

Let the calls I will see him.